

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A glow plug comprising:

a ceramic heater assuming a rodlike form and having a resistance-heating element embedded in a distal end portion thereof;

a first metallic fitting member externally joined to a rear end portion of the ceramic heater in such a manner as to surround an outer circumferential surface of the rear end portion;

a second metallic fitting member disposed on a side toward a distal end of the ceramic heater in relation to the first metallic fitting member and externally joined to the ceramic heater in such a manner as to surround an outer circumferential surface of the ceramic heater; and

a pair of electric conductors embedded in the ceramic heater so as to electrically connect the resistance-heating element and the first and second metallic fitting members, one electric conductor having a first exposed portion joined to the first metallic fitting member, and the other electric conductor having a second exposed portion joined to the second metallic fitting member,

wherein a metal layer not higher than Ni in ionization tendency is formed on an inner circumferential surface of the first metallic fitting member and on an inner circumferential surface of the second metallic

fitting member, the inner circumferential surfaces facing the first and second exposed portions, respectively; and the metal layers are in contact with the corresponding first and second exposed portions.

2. A glow plug according to claim 1, wherein the metal layer contains at least either Ag or Au and is not higher than H in ionization tendency.

3. A glow plug according to claim 1, wherein the metal layer has a thickness of 0.2 μm to 10 μm .

4. A glow plug according to claim 1, wherein the metal layer has a thickness of 0.3 μm to 10 μm .

5. A glow plug according to claim 1, wherein said electric conductors contain at least either tungsten (W) or molybdenum (Mo).

6. A glow plug according to claim 1, wherein said metal layer contacts at least 30% of the area of an exposed portion.

7. A method of manufacturing a glow plug which comprises a ceramic heater assuming a rodlike form and having a resistance-heating element embedded in a distal

end portion thereof; a first metallic fitting member externally joined to a rear end portion of the ceramic heater in such a manner as to surround an outer circumferential surface of the rear end portion; a second metallic fitting member disposed on a side toward a distal end of the ceramic heater in relation to the first metallic fitting member and externally joined to the ceramic heater in such a manner as to surround an outer circumferential surface of the ceramic heater; and a pair of electric conductors embedded in the ceramic heater so as to electrically connect the resistance-heating element and the first and second metallic fitting members, the electric conductors containing at least either W or Mo, one electric conductor having a first exposed portion joined to the first metallic fitting member, and the other electric conductor having a second exposed portion joined to the second metallic fitting member, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a metal layer not higher than Ni in ionization tendency on an inner circumferential surface of the first metallic fitting member and on an inner circumferential surface of the second metallic fitting member, the inner circumferential surfaces facing the first and second exposed portions, respectively; and joining the first and second metallic fitting members to the ceramic heater such that the metal layers

come into contact with the corresponding first and second exposed portions.

8. A method of manufacturing a glow plug according to claim 7, wherein the step of forming a metal layer is to form a metal layer containing at least Ag or Au and not higher than H in ionization tendency.

9. A method of manufacturing a glow plug according to claim 7, wherein the metal layers and the corresponding first and second exposed portions are joined together such that an area of contact between the metal layer and the corresponding exposed portion is 30% or more of an area of the exposed portion.